

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

FAA-00 NSCE-00 IO-13 PM-04 L-03 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EB/AVP:JAMES K. GORDON:MG

APPROVED BY S/S-O: SESTEINER

EUR/EE - ILSANDERS (SUBS)

FAA/AIA-130 - ELJETT (SUBS)

CAB/BOR - CBMALOY (SUBS)

ARA/CAR - JTTHYDEN (SUBS)

----- 096704

O 140614Z NOV 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

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FOR ACTION AT 0700 LOCAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, US, BU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BALKAN AIRLINES FLIGHT CLEARANCE

SUSPENSION

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED NOV. 3RD NOTE FROM BULGARIAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON, REQUESTING FLIGHT/LANDING CLEARANCE
FOR BALKAN AIRLINES FLIGHT CARRYING REPLACEMENT CREWS
FOR BULGARIAN FIGHING BOATS. DEPARTMENT RESPONDED BY NOTE
OFFERING OFFSHORE ROUTE WHICH REQUIRED NO US CLEARANCE.
BULGARIANS DEMURRED, CITING EXTREME DISTANCE AND EMPHASIZING
NEED FOR FUEL STOP. WE THEN REQUESTED ASSURANCES THAT
TU-154 AIRCRAFT WAS MAINTAINED UNDER STANDARDS EQUAL TO
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ICAO MINIMUM STANDARD, AND THE EMBASSY GAVE US A NOTE TO

THAT EFFECT. ON THIS BASIS, DEPARTMENT GAVE ORAL CLEARANCE,
AND ROUTE GANDER-BOSTON-KINGSTON.

2. NOV. 13TH FLIGHT WAS APPARENTLY CONDUCTED WITHOUT
COORDINATION BETWEEN BULGARIAN EMBASSY AND AUTHORITIES IN
SOFIA. PILOT DID NOT FOLLOW APPROVED ROUTE PREPARED BY
FAA AND PASSED TO BULGARIANS BY DEPARTMENT. PILOT
ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO MAKE REFUELING STOP AT BALTI-
MORE, INSTEAD OF BOSTON AS INSTRUCTED. WHILE ON GROUND,
AIRCRAFT WAS FOUND TO BE EQUIPPED ONLY WITH VOR AND ADF
NAVIGATION AIDS AND HF RADIO. (THESE NAV AIDS ONLY OF

USE IN FLIGHT OVER LAND, NOT IN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE.)
PILOT REFUSED FAA'S ROUTE FROM BOSTON TO KINGSTON ON
BASIS THAT AIRCRAFT NOT EQUIPPED FOR FLIGHT OVER WATER.
(WE AGREE, AND WONDER AT PILOT'S LUCK IN MAKING SAFE
FLIGHT FROM SHANNON, IRELAND, TO GANDER, NEWFOUNDLAND.)
FAA PREPARED AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ALLOW THE
FLIGHT TO PROCEED.

3. PILOT'S STATEMENT AND AIRCRAFT'S LACK OF NAVIGATIONAL
EQUIPMENT CALL INTO QUESTION THE ASSURANCES GIVEN US BY
THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY. DEPARTMENT, FAA AND NORAD ALSO
WILL NEED TO CONSIDER PROPOSED ROUTE OF FLIGHT BEFORE
AIRCRAFT MAKES RETURN FLIGHT. WE ARE THEREFORE REVOKING
PERMISSION FOR RETURN FLIGHT PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION.
ORIGINAL PLANS WERE FOR AIRCRAFT TO RETURN ON DAY FOLLOWING
ARRIVAL IN KINGSTON. WE ASSUME BALKAN PROPOSES NOV. 14
RETURN FLIGHT.

4. ACTION: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
KINGSTON ATTEMPTING TO INFORM BALKAN AIRLINES CAPTAIN
GRIGOR SOKOLOV THAT CLEARANCE FOR BALKAN AIRLINES FLIGHT
KINGSTON-GANDER VIA US AIR SPACE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.
DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER ON
MONDAY, BUT WE FEEL UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON
BASIS OF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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To: KINGSTON
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